

UNCLASSIFIED

E31

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DNI-00	DODE-00
	DOTE-00	DS-00	EB-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00
	OIG-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	CFPP-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	IRM-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	EPAE-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
	G-00	FDIC-01	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/002W	

-----F4B31D 141729Z /38

R 141801Z JUL 06
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2159
INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
DIA WASHDC
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
CDR USNORTHCOM
NSC WASHDC

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 003907

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/13/2016
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PREL, MX
SUBJECT: LOOKING FOR FRAUD IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES?

REF: A. A) MEXICO 3834
B. B) MEXICO 3422

Classified By: ACTING POLITICAL CHIEF ALAN MELTZER, REASONS: 1.4(B/D).

1. (C) Summary: [] July 12 []
officials of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) offered an
impassioned defense of their work in conducting the July 2
presidential elections. Although they had not yet seen the
specific complaints submitted by the PRD (or, for that
matter, those of the PAN), they described in great detail the
safeguards incorporated into IFE's election process, many of
which were previously described at an SRE briefing for the
diplomatic corps (ref A). They refuted in detail several of
the specific allegations of fraud or irregularities singled
out by Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) in recent news
conferences.

B1

B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. HEDGBETH, DAS, A/ISS
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 13 JUL 2026
DATE/CASE ID: 22 MAY 2009 200704261

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] End summary.

2. (SBU) On July 12, [REDACTED] IFE Counselor Alejandra Latapi and IFE Director for International Affairs Manuel Carrillo to discuss the most recent developments in the dispute over the results of the Mexican presidential election. From the outset [REDACTED] Latapi asserted that the election had been exemplary and that in several important respects, the electoral system functioned even more effectively this year than in previous years. She noted, for example, that out of the over 130,000 precincts planned nationwide, all but 11 actually operated on Election Day, including every precinct planned for the conflictive state of Chiapas; in 2000, IFE was unable to set up 104 of the precincts planned nationwide.

B1

Seeking to Set the Record Straight

3. (SBU) In addition to detailing the considerable safeguards protecting virtually every step of the election process, she sought to refute several of the specific allegations raised by AMLO in recent press conferences. She first sought to rebut AMLO's allegation, based upon a video he showed at a recent press conference, that ballot box stuffing had occurred in the state of Guanajuato. She explained that the person seen in the video depositing multiple ballots in a ballot box -- who in fact was the precinct president -- was simply relocating to the correct box Chamber of Deputies ballots that inadvertently had been deposited in the presidential ballot box. She noted that such an action was legal and that all of the party representatives -- including that of the PRD -- were aware of the action at the time and did not object. (Note: AMLO subsequently asserted that the PRD precinct representative may have been bought off by the PAN, a charge strenuously denied by the 19 year old woman who volunteered as his representative in that precinct. End note.)

4. (SBU) As for AMLO's allegation that a discrepancy in the tally sheet of a ballot box in Queretaro cost him votes, Latapi said this discrepancy had been raised during the district retabulation, the ballot box had been opened, the

UNCLASSIFIED

votes recounted, and the discrepancy corrected. She noted this was precisely the reason why the electoral law provided for a district retabulation, and was an example of the system working properly. She also sought to refute an allegation of fraud in Coahuila, where the PRD identified a temporary IFE employee claiming to have been pressured to change vote tallies to Calderon's advantage, and to have seen Calderon's vote totals grow immediately after an alleged power outage. Latapi said that upon investigation, IFE found numerous contradictions in his story. Rather than being hired as a "capturista" to enter vote totals in the IFE data base, as he had claimed, he had been hired for manual labor; in the early morning hours on election night, he was asked to briefly assist the district council by recording results being dictated for a second, unofficial vote tally. Members of the

district council, as well as representatives of four political parties, certified that he never had access to the official tally sheets and that there had been no power outage during the evening.

5. (SBU) Finally, Latapi addressed the PRD's charge that IFE had improperly opened ballot boxes being stored under military guard in Tabasco, Puebla and Sonora. She asserted that the electoral law did not preclude its reopening of these ballot boxes, that they were reopened (and later resealed) in the presence of the IFE district council and party representatives, and that IFE had ordered them to be opened because the PRD (and in some cases, the PAN) had requested copies of tally sheets and incident reports therein so as to be able to prepare its electoral challenge. She emphasized that in no case did the district councils open the sealed envelopes containing the executed ballots. (Note: Former IFE President Jose Woldenberg [redacted] although he believed IFE acted in good faith in opening the ballot boxes, IFE would have been well-advised not to do so without a court order, given the toxic, post-election climate. In fact, late on July 12, IFE announced it would not open additional further ballot boxes pending a TEPJF order. End note.)

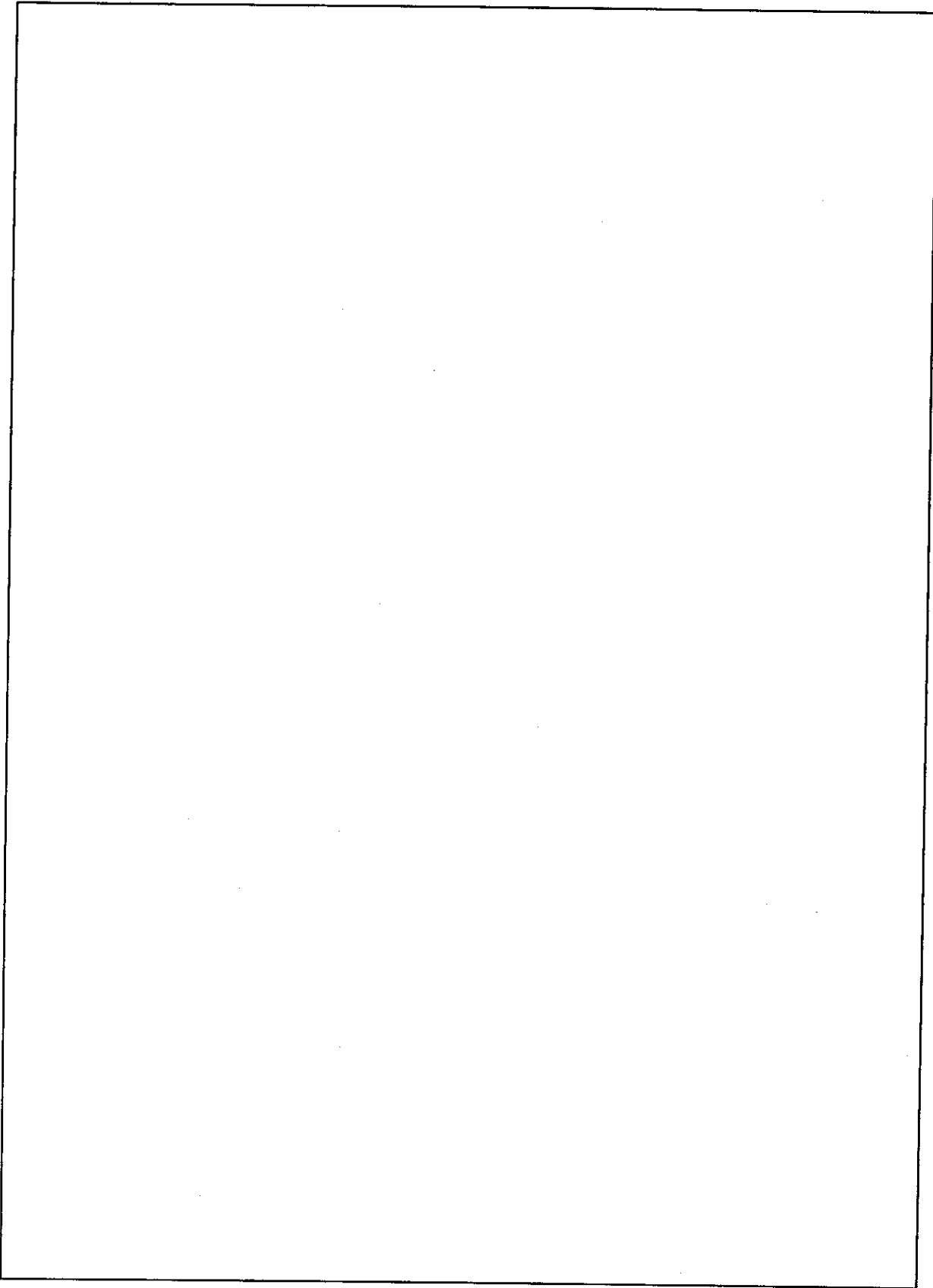
B1

B1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

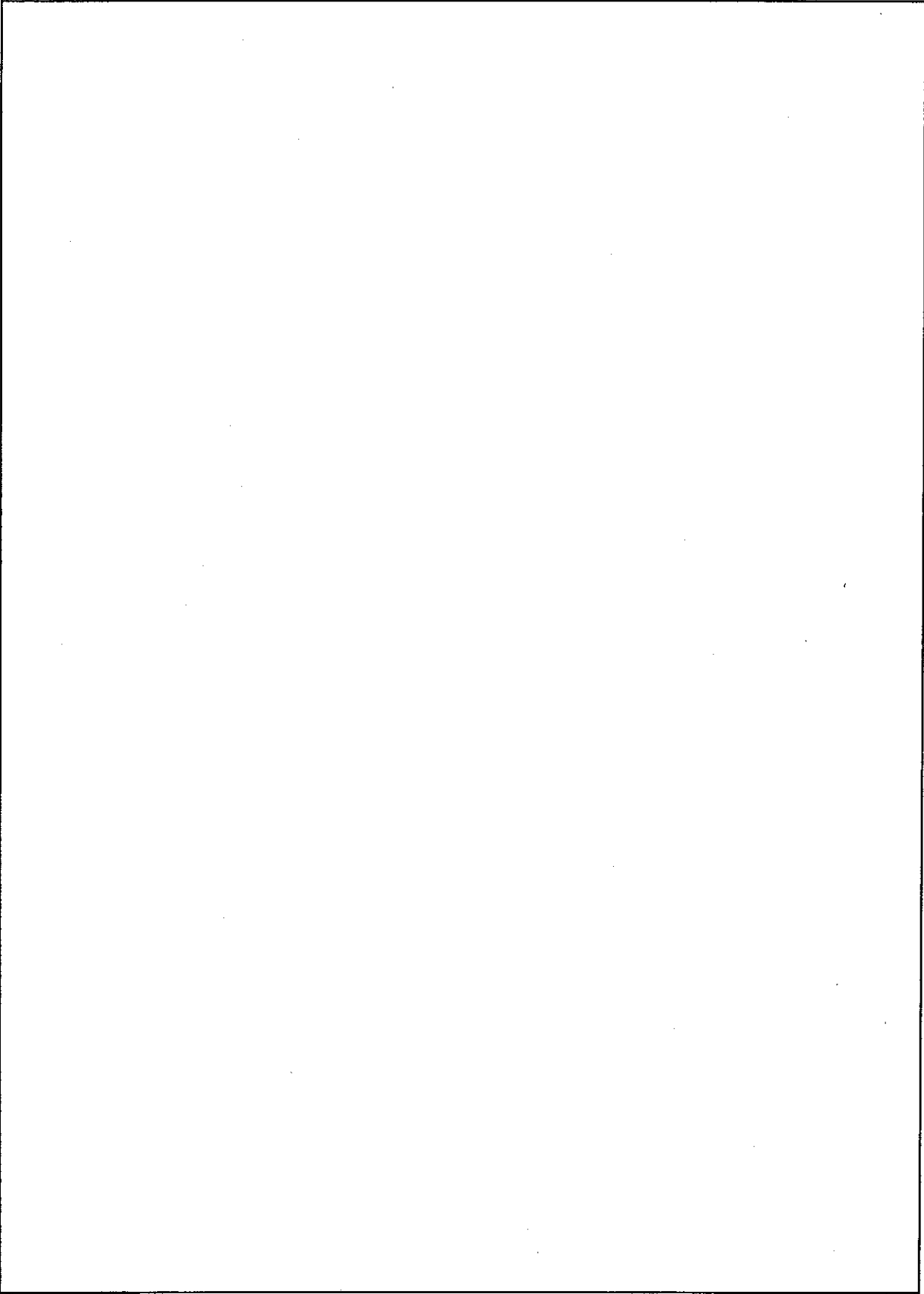
B1



UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

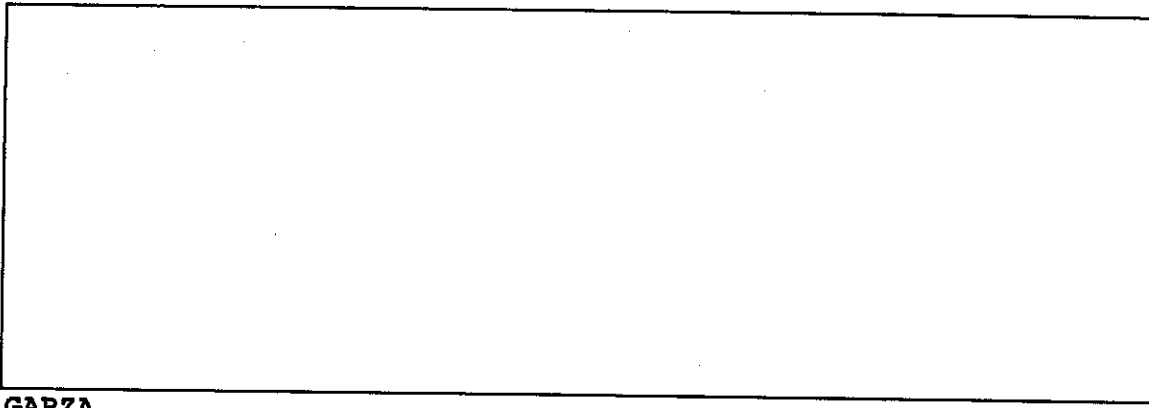
B1



UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

B1



GARZA

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED